

4413(1)

RECEIVED
26 AUG 57
58

1 in Chrono Dis
2 Library

BOROUGH OF REIGATE



Sum

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

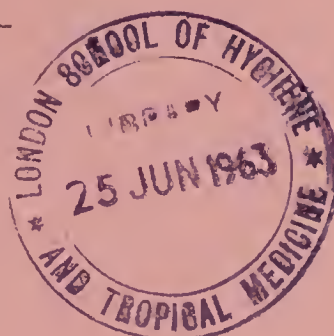
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. Janes, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.



1956

Ans.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. H. Bingham, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. Janes, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1956

INDEX TO SECTIONS

SECTION I	Statistics and Social Conditions ..	5 to 9
" II	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area ..	10 to 13
" III	Housing	14
" IV	Inspection and Supervision of Food ..	15 to 16
" V	Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases	17 to 27
REPORT OF Chief Public Health Inspector		28 to 43

CONTENTS

Atmospheric Pollution	12
Bacteriological Examination of Milk and Food ..	15, 16
Births	5
Closet Accommodation	11
Complaints Received, Summary of	40
Deaths	7, 8, 9
Disinfection and Disinfestation	27, 29
Dysentery	21
Enteric Fever	20
Erysipelas	22
Factories Act, 1937	13, 38, 39, 41
Fairground Sanitation	42
Food and Drugs Act - Sections 13 to 21	33, 34, 35, 41
Food and Drugs Act - Sampling	36, 37
Food Inspection	33
Food Poisoning	21
Hairdressers' & Barbers' Establishments	38
Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952	42
Housing Acts	38, 40
Housing Statistics	14
Ice-Cream	16, 35
Infectious Diseases	17, 18
Isolation Hospital Accommodation	17
Malaria	22
Mass Radiography	24
Measles	19, 25
Meningococcal Infection	20
Merchandise Marks Act	36
Milk Supply, Regulations, etc.	15, 36
Movable Dwellings	12
National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47	8
Notices Issued	40
Nuisances Abated	41
Pediculosis	27
Pest Control	12
Pneumonia	21
Polioomyelitis	19, 26
Population	5
Public Cleansing	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	22
Rag Flock, etc. Act, 1951	38
River Pollution	11
Rodent Control	42, 43
Sanitary Inspection of Area	11
Scabies	27
Scarlet Fever	19
Sewerage	10
Shops Act, 1950	11
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	30, 31, 32
Smallpox	17
Staff	2
Swimming Baths and Pools	12
Tuberculosis	22, 23, 24, 25
Vaccination and Immunisation	24
Vital Statistics	6
Water Supply	10
Whooping Cough	19

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

(Medical Officer of Health, Godstone R.D., and
Divisional County Medical Officer):

THOMAS H. BINGHAM, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

PETER WESTCOMBE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
(from 1st September, 1956)

Public Analyst (part-time):

D. D. MOIR, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Deputy Public Analyst:

THOMAS E. RYMER, F.R.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

GILBERT JANES, Cert.R.S.I.
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

REGINALD FRANKHAM, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.,
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Public Health Inspectors:

KENNETH J. TYLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
(until 31st December, 1956)

JOHN K. FREATHY, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Public Health Inspectors' Assistant:

PETER W. G. PILE

Disinfecting Officer & General Assistant:

JOHN A. AGENT

Pests Officer:

JOHN KEMPSHALL

Assistant Pests Officer:

EDWARD E. ARNOULD

Clerks:

VERA VERRALL

JOAN I. LINCOLN (until 18th July, 1956)

MARY B. WICKENDEN (from 24th September, 1956)

ROSEMARY KING

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30033627>

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1956. The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular 19/56, and in the main follows the same arrangement as earlier issues in the same series.

The statistical particulars for the year are noteworthy in several respects. The birth rate of 14.26 is appreciably higher than in 1955 and approaches the average for the preceding ten years, in which some of the exceptionally high rates recorded in the immediate post-war period are included. The advance in the birth rate was accompanied by a striking reduction in mortality of new-born infants and in the proportion registered as still-born, the rates in both cases being by far the lowest yet observed in the Borough and equivalent to roughly one-third of the corresponding rates for England and Wales. The rate of survival of illegitimate infants is also very satisfactory.

The general death rate of 12.14 is somewhat below the average for recent years and is no greater than might be expected in a relatively aged population. It is not without significance that a very large proportion of the total deaths were ascribed to degenerative conditions occurring in association with senility. It may be noted, however, that an unduly large number of elderly persons died as a direct result of accidents on the road or in their own homes. Reference is made to the increasing mortality from cancer of the lung, particularly amongst males over middle age. Although the local death rate from this cause in 1956 was considerably lower than in the preceding year and for the country as a whole, mortality from lung cancer has shown a fairly steady upward trend in the Borough, as elsewhere, during the past twenty years or so. While this is, no doubt, due to a combination of factors, many of which are as yet unidentified, the evidence recently published by the Medical Research Council clearly incriminates excessive cigarette smoking as the major factor involved. The way in which tobacco smoke exerts its effect and the relative importance of other factors in the causation of lung cancer are at present the subject of intensive study. The numbers of deaths from other diseases of the lungs was much smaller than usual, the rate for respiratory tuberculosis being the lowest yet experienced in the Borough.

In reviewing the prevalence of infectious illness during the year reference is made to an outbreak of poliomyelitis, which is becoming increasingly common. An unduly high proportion of those affected had paralytic symptoms, but these were, in general, classified as being of moderate severity and were associated with relatively low mortality. Attention is also drawn to the occurrence of a group of eight cases of para-typhoid fever, in which the infection was almost certainly derived from contaminated ingredients used in the manufacture of synthetic cream. Cases of bacillary dysentery of the prevailing Sonne type were very much more numerous than usual, but were mainly confined to two public establishments in which infections of this nature are liable to spread very rapidly. The number of cases of illness thought to be due to the consumption of unsound or contaminated food is also much above the average, though it should be noted that it was rarely possible to confirm infection by organisms of the food poisoning group. The increase in this instance may be of favourable significance in that it reflects the co-operation of medical practitioners in reporting suspected cases, so that full enquiries may be

made and any necessary action taken to prevent the occurrence of further cases. The only other points of epidemiological interest are the continued freedom from diphtheria and the further decline in the incidence and severity of scarlet fever, whooping cough and tuberculosis of the lungs.

An interesting observation emerging from the foregoing is the remarkable change in recent years in the pattern of notifiable infectious illness. Diseases such as scarlet fever, whooping cough and respiratory tuberculosis, which are usually transmitted by inhalation of the infecting organism, are now much less common than formerly, while dysentery, food poisoning and certain forms of gastro-enteritis, and, possibly, poliomyelitis, in which the infecting agent is conveyed through the medium of contaminated food, are assuming greater prevalence. This emphasises the importance and value of maintaining and intensifying the routine activities of the Public Health Department in connection with the inspection, sampling and examination of food supplies, the hygienic condition and amenities of food premises and, of more immediate consequence, the collective and individual instruction of food operatives in the observance of elementary precautions and cleanly methods to prevent contamination of the commodities they handle. All these matters received close attention during the year.

Reference might again be made to the satisfactory position with regard to the acceptance of protective inoculation against the range of infectious diseases for which effective immunising agents are now available. A very important and welcome addition was the introduction, in April, of a modified type of the Salk vaccine for protective inoculation against paralytic poliomyelitis. It is regrettable, however, that the quantity of vaccine issued during the year was sufficient for only a very small proportion of the children who had been registered for treatment. Another noteworthy advance was the extension of the existing immunisation scheme to include vaccination against tetanus of children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected.

A review of the work in the Public Health Department during the year would not be complete without grateful acknowledgment of the efficient and conscientious service given by my staff, the assistance and close co-operation of Officers engaged in other departments of the Corporation, and the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health

Caberfeigh,
Redhill.

12th August, 1957

SECTION 1
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	.. .. .	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1951	.. .. .	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1956	.. .. .	48,730
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1956 according to Rate Books	.. .. .	14,569
Rateable Value (1956)	.. .. .	£866,859
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£3,475

Population

The population of the Borough, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 48,730 at mid-year, 1956. This represents a population increment of 550 in the preceding twelve months, of which 103 is attributable to natural increase (i.e. the number by which the live births outnumbered the deaths) and 447 to migration into the area. The population gain by natural increase is unusually high for the Borough, due to rise in the birth rate without advance in the death rate, while that attributable to migration is the lowest for several years, mainly because of cessation of building development on the London County Council's housing estate at Merstham and reduction in the number of dwellings erected by the Borough Council.

The Registrar-General's estimate is not greatly at variance with the population figure computed on information from other sources and, accordingly, the various statistical rates for the year, which are calculated on the estimate, fairly represent the extent of sickness and mortality actually experienced in the Borough in the year under review.

Births

A total of 695 live infants (350 males and 345 females) were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore, 14.26 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 13.65 in 1955, 14.43 in 1954 and an average rate of 14.25 for the preceding five years. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 15.7. For the first time, the sex and age group constitution of the population of the Borough, as it may affect the birth rate, is considered to be the same as that in the country as a whole; the recorded birth rate for the Borough is, therefore, comparable with that for England and Wales without special adjustment.

The advance in the birth rate was accompanied by an exceptionally high rate of survival of new-born infants. There were only 5 deaths of infants under the age of one year, all of which were attributed to gross congenital abnormality; it is of interest to note that prematurity, which is the commonest and probably the least easily preventable of the factors concerned in the causation of the neo-natal mortality, was not in any instance stated to be a primary or contributory cause. The infant death rate for the year was 7.19 per 1,000 total live births, which is by far the lowest yet observed; the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 23.8, which also is the lowest on record.

Equally favourable is the striking reduction in the proportion of babies registered as stillborn, which fell to the record low level of 8.5 per 1,000 total (i.e. live and still) births, as compared with 16.4 in 1955, 18.5 in 1954 and an average rate of 21.1 in the preceding five years. The stillbirth rate for the country as a whole was 23.0.

TABLE 1

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	331	Females	332	Total	663
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	19	Females	13	Total	32

Birth Rate

Do. 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.2
Do. for the five years 1951 to 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.6
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.1

Still Births

Legitimate	..	..	Males	4	Females	2	Total	6
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Rate per 1,000 total births

Do. do. 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.5
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.4

Deaths (nett):-

Males	..	284	Females	..	308	Total	592
-------	----	-----	---------	----	-----	----	----	-------	-----

Do. 1955:-

Males	..	294	Females	..	291	Total	585
-------	----	-----	---------	----	-----	----	----	-------	-----

Death Rate

Do. 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1
Do. for the five years 1951 to 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.7

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public

<u>Institutions</u>	43.7
---------------------	------

Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	1.4

Infant Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	3	Females	2	Total	5
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	7.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	7.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	Nil

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	3	Females	1	Total	4
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere and members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to the districts in which they normally resided. The total number of deaths so assigned was 592, of which 284 were of males and 308 of females.

The death rate calculated on this total is 12.14 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is the same as that for 1955 and somewhat below the average for the Borough. When adjusted in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the rate is reduced to 10.6, as compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 1 year	..	3	2	5
1 - 5 years	..	2	1	3
5 - 10 years	..	2	1	3
10 - 15 years	..	2	3	5
15 - 20 years	..	2	..	2
20 - 30 years	..	3	3	6
30 - 40 years	..	3	1	4
40 - 50 years	..	11	6	17
50 - 60 years	..	29	7	46
60 - 70 years	..	59	57	116
70 - 80 years	..	89	97	186
80 - 90 years	..	71	102	173
90 and upwards	..	8	18	26
		<u>284</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>592</u>

Reference has already been made to the exceptionally small number of deaths of infants under the age of one year. Attention might also be drawn to the relatively low mortality in the intermediate age groups and to the fact that rather more than one-third of the total deaths were of persons over the age of 80 years, including 46 nonagenarians. It might again be mentioned that the recent inclusion in Borough statistics of deaths occurring in residential institutions and homes for old people has, of course, added somewhat to the mortality recorded in the advanced age groups.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system, including affections of the arteries of the brain and in most cases occurring in association with senility, account for more than one-half of the total deaths from all causes. This proportion is not unduly high, having regard to the relatively large number of elderly persons in the community.

Deaths from all forms of cancer and malignant disease form the second largest group and represent a mortality rate of 1.99 per 1,000 population, which is below the ten-year average for the Borough and, when adjusted in the prescribed manner, is appreciably lower than the national rate. The mortality from this cause has not shown any marked or sustained upward trend in the Borough during the past twenty years although, in the latter part of that period, there has been a substantial and progressive increase in the proportion of deaths ascribed to cancer of the lung, especially amongst males over middle age. It is, however, of interest to record that the number of such deaths in 1956 was one-third less than in 1955 and equivalent to an adjusted death rate of 0.23, as compared with a rate of 0.40 for England and Wales. Reassuring though these comparisons may be, it should be remembered that the actual incidence of malignant disease cannot be accurately deduced solely from the numbers of deaths ascribed to it, as many cancer cases which would formerly have been considered to be inoperable are now amenable to successful treatment by modern surgical methods.

Attention might also be drawn to the exceptionally low mortality from the acute infectious diseases, the rate for influenza, in particular, being very much below the average. In continuation of the steady downward trend that has been noted in the past five or six years, the death rate from tuberculosis of the lungs fell to the record low level of 0.04, which is rather less than one-third of the corresponding rate for England and Wales; no mortality was ascribed to tuberculosis of other organs. The one death attributed to maternal causes - the first to be recorded in the Borough for seven years - cannot be traced in local returns.

It may be noted that deaths from all forms of violence, including those resulting from motor vehicle accidents, continue to make an unnecessarily high contribution to the general death rate. Roughly one-half of the total included under this heading were of aged persons, nine of whom died from the effects of accidental falls in their own homes and four from injuries sustained when they were struck by motor vehicles. Coal gas from the domestic supply was the means of self destruction in the three cases of suicide and was also responsible for the deaths of three members of one family, which were classified as accidental in the absence of evidence of homicidal or suicidal intent.

The numbers of deaths attributed to other defined diseases are set out in Table II and do not exceed the average for the Borough, nor do they indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 (As amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951)

The Borough Council has powers under this Section to secure the removal to hospital or other suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from others, the care and attention they require.

Upwards of a dozen cases in which it appeared that such action should be considered were reported during the year from a variety of sources. All were fully investigated and in most instances it was possible, with the assistance available from the Home Help, Welfare, District Nursing and general Public Health Services and from voluntary agencies to effect such improvement in the general standard of care and attention and in the sanitary condition of the home that no further action was necessary.

Preliminary arrangements were made for the compulsory removal of three cases whose essential physical and medical needs could not be adequately met by the domiciliary services available. All were elderly women who were seriously incapacitated, under-nourished and neglected, were living in insanitary conditions and had refused the institutional accommodation offered to them. In one case it was possible, with the co-operation of the medical practitioner concerned, to secure immediate admission to a general hospital and, in another, to effect voluntary removal to a welfare institution in the London area. In the third case it was necessary to obtain a Justice's Order for compulsory removal which was effected without difficulty or resistance; the old lady was admitted to St. Anne's, Redhill, where it was found that she had very advanced malignant disease from which she died two weeks later.

TABLE II

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate
during 1956

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	1	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	1
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	9	15
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	14	-	14
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	12	12
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	28	53
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	30	55	85
18. Coronary disease, angina	55	27	82
19. Hypertension with heart disease	7	6	13
20. Other heart disease	43	69	112
21. Other circulatory disease	22	21	43
22. Influenza	1	3	4
23. Pneumonia	13	10	23
24. Bronchitis	9	8	17
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	1	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	2	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	4	3	7
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	25	30	55
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	3	8
34. All other accidents	5	9	14
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals	284	308	592

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

There was no important extension of the public water supply during the year, except in connection with new building development.

With the exception of twelve cottages which depend on a private well for their water supply, all dwellings in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about forty times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company; samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about thirty to forty gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination, was invariably reported to be satisfactory.

The private well referred to above is of artesian type and supplies a mineral water factory and a group of adjoining cottages in the Reigate Heath district. It was reported that samples of water from the well had been examined, under private arrangement, and were of satisfactory quality.

An artesian well supplying another mineral water factory was found to be contaminated toward the end of 1955 and the supply was, accordingly, discontinued; a purification plant was installed and, as subsequent samples reached a satisfactory standard of chemical and bacterial purity, the supply was put back into service.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A house on cesspool drainage in the Holmethorpe district was connected to the public sewer. The sewage disposal systems of three houses, consisting of septic tanks, filter beds, etc., were overhauled and repaired and, where necessary, partly renewed.

There are approximately 270 cesspools in the Borough, of which 155 are emptied periodically under arrangements made by the Borough Surveyor. Those receiving the drainage of dwelling-houses are emptied free of charge twelve times a year; a charge on an hourly basis is made for more frequent emptying. Cesspools at business premises are emptied on payment of the full cost by the occupiers.

In addition to the above, there are approximately 20 premises in the Borough where small sewage disposal plants, consisting of septic tanks and filter beds, have been installed.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following particulars of important extensions, improvements and developments of the arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in the area:-

Housing Estates by Private Development

- (a) Salmons Cross Estate
190 lineal yards foul sewers.
410 lineal yards surface water sewers.
- (b) Blackstone Estate
190 lineal yards foul sewers
263 lineal yards surface water sewers
- (c) Extension of Clarence Walk
75 lineal yards foul sewers.
66 lineal yards surface water sewers
- (d) Wiggie Estate
384 lineal yards surface water sewers.

Extensions of existing surface water sewerage system
carried out by the Corporation:-

Batts Hill, Redhill	163 lineal yards
Park Road, Redhill	276 " "
Sandhills Road, Reigate	93 " "

Relaying of existing surface water sewer carried
out by the Corporation:-

Prices Lane to Orchard Way, South Park	100 lineal yards
---	------------------

Closet Accommodation

There is nothing to record under this heading.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected, and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Special collections are made at the request of tradesmen or householders.

The conditions under which house and trade refuse is temporarily stored are generally satisfactory. Defective and dilapidated receptacles have been replaced, where necessary, though somewhat less readily than in the past, because of recent increases in the price of dustbins.

The separate collection of kitchen waste, which was introduced as a war-time measure, has been continued, and results in the production annually of roughly 700 tons of animal feeding material.

The arrangements made for the extraction and salvage of waste paper, scrap metal, bottles, textiles, sacking, etc., have continued in operation. Refuse having no salvage value is disposed of by incineration, the total quantity so dealt with during the year being about 15,000 tons.

A valuable ancillary service from the public health point of view has been the disposal by incineration at the Corporation Disposal Works of the carcasses of over 2,000 dogs, cats, infected poultry, pigs and other animals.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in respect of them will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites

Thirteen licences (three new licences and ten renewals) were granted under Section 269, Sub-section (1) (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of trailer caravans occupied by families who were without proper housing accommodation. One application was refused because of lack of precise information concerning the situation of the site and the applicant's proposals with regard to sanitary arrangements, including the provision of a satisfactory water supply; nothing further was heard of the matter.

The three privately-owned sites referred to in previous reports continued in use during 1956, with accommodation for a total of 148 caravans. It was found necessary to make frequent visits of inspection to these sites, to ensure that a satisfactory standard of hygiene in the ablution and sanitary blocks was regularly maintained.

In addition to the above, there is the Corporation's caravan site in Three Arch Road, Redhill, with accommodation for a maximum of 40 caravans. There has been a steady demand for plots on this site, which have been let almost exclusively to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so available for urgent and special cases.

Several of the plots have been in the same occupation since the site was opened in August, 1953, but others have been vacated after short periods, in most cases because the tenants have changed their place of employment or have obtained more suitable housing accommodation. During the year there were 15 new lettings, and 13 families left the site; a total of 53 families were in occupation at some time during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution

There was no complaint of nuisance from smoke in 1956.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the special difficulties in dealing with the emission of acrid fumes from two cupola flues at a small foundry attached to a light engineering works in Redhill, which, under certain atmospheric conditions, give rise to complaints by residents in the immediate neighbourhood. Frequent observations during the year failed to detect any nuisance that would come within the scope of the Public Health Acts.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. Samples of water from both baths were submitted to analysis at the height of the bathing season. The results in each case showed that the water reached a satisfactory standard of bacterial purity and was suitable for swimming bath purposes; attention was drawn to the somewhat high content of ammoniacal nitrogen and it was recommended that the water in both baths should be changed at a convenient opportunity.

Copies of the Analyst's reports were supplied to the Baths Superintendent.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with the requirements of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1956 in relation to factory premises:-

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	167	107	-	-
(iii) Others	24	12	-	-
TOTALS	216	122	-	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	12	14	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	12	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	-	1	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	21	26	-	3	-

(3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

No lists of outworkers were received from local employers. Fifteen lists were received from other Authorities, affecting thirty-three persons, whose premises were visited. No action was necessary.

SECTION III

HOUSING

Returns relating to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1956 are briefly summarised as follows:

(a)	Houses demolished under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	..	3
	(117, 161 & 163 Garlands Road, Redhill).		
(b)	Families rehoused from clearance areas	.. .. .	13
	(Market Row, Feldwick Place & Cromwell Road, Redhill)		(48 persons)
(c)	Unfit houses or parts of buildings closed	.. .. .	3
	(Garage Flat, Way Close, Reigate; 129 & 129A Garlands Road, Redhill)		
(d)	Families rehoused from (c)	.. .. .	2
			(8 persons)
(e)	Unfit houses made fit -		
	(i) Informally - by owner	.. .. .	93
	(ii) After formal notice (Public Health Act)	.. .. .	1
	(iii) and Closing Order determined	.. .. .	1

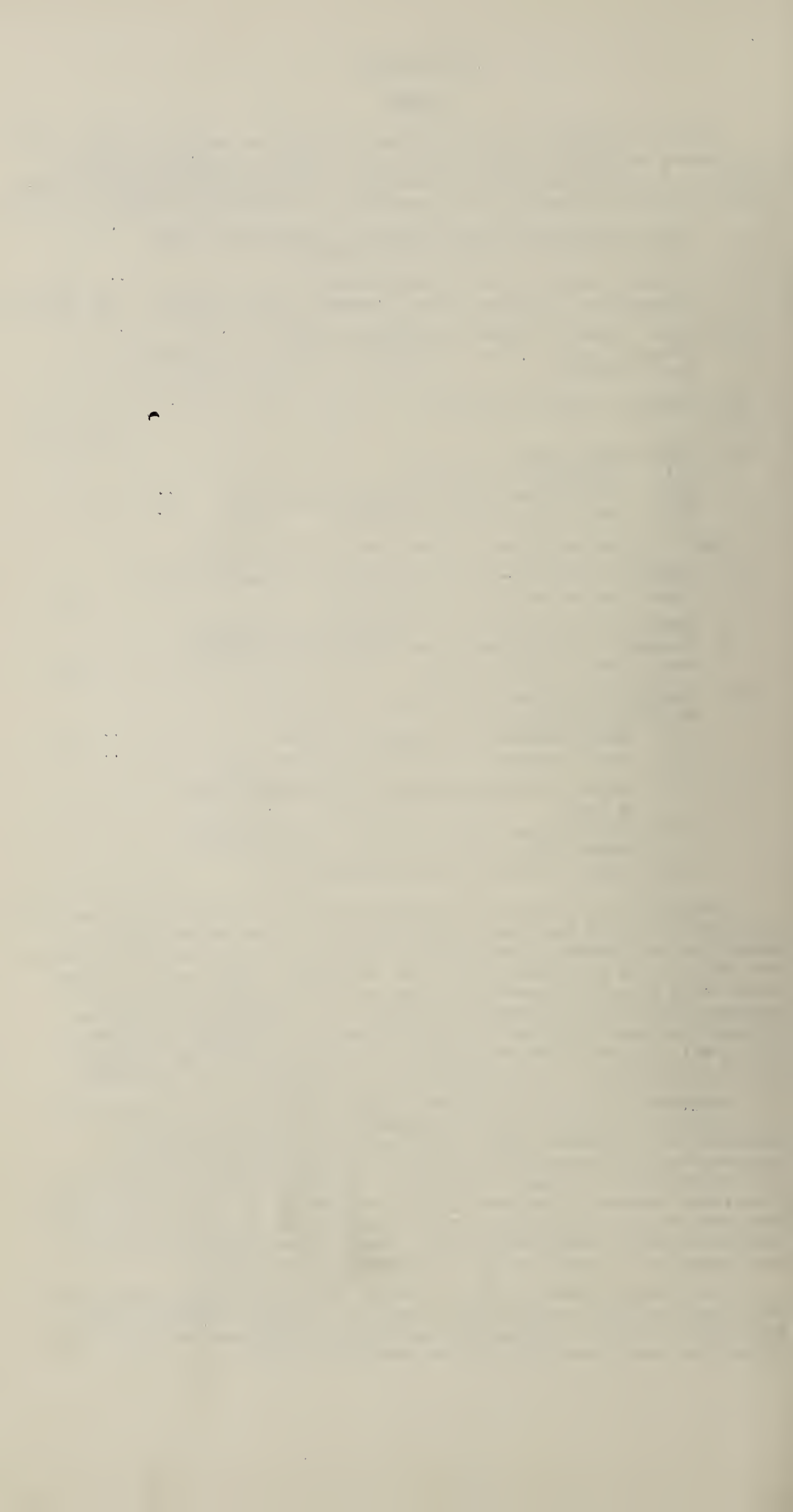
The following additional information is of interest:-

(f)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	237
(g)	Number of dwelling-houses - included in (f) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. .. .	109
(h)	Number of (g) above represented as unfit and suitable for action -		
	(i) under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936	.. .. .	62
	(ii) under Sections 11 and 12 Housing Act, 1936	.. .. .	4
(j)	(i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1956	.. .. .	3
	(ii) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1956	.. .. .	3
	(iii) Number of cases relieved during 1956	.. .. .	4

Toward the end of 1955, the Council approved an official representation under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of ten houses in Market Row and Feldwick Place, Redhill, which were considered to be suitable for treatment as a clearance area, and in February, 1956, made an Order authorising compulsory purchase of the land and buildings in the area, together with land immediately adjoining it. Subsequent negotiations between the Council and the two owners concerned continued throughout 1956, but, with the agreement of the latter, it was possible to proceed with the rehousing of the occupants of the dwellings to be demolished.

Sixty-two houses in the Cromwell Road, South Street and Tower Street area of Redhill were officially represented in July as suitable for inclusion in a clearance area. This was the first major step in implementing the Council's slum clearance proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954. Two Clearance Orders and three Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in respect of the site. The Council then entered into negotiations for the acquisition of the Dome Estate for housing purposes, which will greatly advance their proposals for the re-development of a large area in the central part of Redhill.

The Council refused a request for the determination of a Closing Order made in 1954 in respect of a house at St. John's, Redhill, as the works which the owner had carried out were not considered sufficient to render the house reasonably fit for human habitation.



SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin-tested.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1956 are summarised in Table III, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial purity.

Two samples of tuberculin-tested milk failed to pass the methylene-blue reduction test for keeping quality; the matter was reported to the Milk Production Officer of the County Agricultural Executive Committee, who is responsible for ensuring satisfactory conditions at the place of production.

All samples of pasteurised milk successfully passed the phosphatase test, indicating that the pasteurising process had consistently been carried out efficiently; seventy-one passed the prescribed test for keeping quality, but the test could not be applied to twenty-three other samples because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination.

Eight samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer. There are now only two local producers of tuberculin-tested milk, which is sold by retail from a dairy in the Borough.

TABLE III

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbi- dity
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory
Tuberculin Tested: 14	12	2	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised): 41	32	-	9	41	-	-
Pasteurised: 53	39	-	14	53	-	-
Sterilised: 13	-	-	-	-	-	13

2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
8	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to twenty-one dealers retailing milk in the area:-

			<u>Number of Licences</u>	<u>Number of Premises</u>
<u>Type of Licence</u>				
Pasteurised	..	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	..	Dealer's	6	16
"	..	Supplementary	5	-
Tuberculin Tested		Dealer's	3	8
"	"	Supplementary	5	-
Sterilised	..	Dealer's	13	19
"	..	Supplementary	1	-

Meat and Other Foods

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringements were reported.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Eleven samples of ice-cream from ten retailers were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. All samples were placed within Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling.

Two samples were taken at one of the two premises in the Borough that are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream; these, also, were placed in provisional Grades I and II. No ice-cream was manufactured during the year at the other premises so registered.

SECTION V

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region. The disposal of notified cases to different hospitals during the year was as follows:-

Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton	..	19 cases
Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bletchingley		16 "
Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood	.. ..	11 "
East Surrey Hospital, Redhill	.. ..	10 "
Western Hospital, Fulham	.. ..	7 "
Cuddington Hospital, Banstead	.. ..	6 "
Grove Hospital, Tooting	.. ..	1 "
Park Hospital, Hither Green	.. ..	1 "

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

There was no complaint of difficulty or delay in securing the admission of infectious patients to hospital; neither was there complaint of dissatisfaction with the arrangements for ambulance transport, nor with the quality of the hospital services given. There were a few instances of delay on the part of certain isolation hospital authorities in notifying the Medical Officer of Health of the admission and discharge of patients from his area and of the ultimate diagnosis made in cases admitted to hospital on suspicion. It is apparently not yet fully appreciated by some hospital authorities that the immediate and effective application of appropriate measures of prevention and control, which is a duty placed on the local sanitary authority, must necessarily depend on prompt receipt of this information, which otherwise has to be obtained by repeated telephone enquiry to the hospitals concerned. While there may admittedly be unavoidable delay in reaching a final decision in obscure and doubtful cases, and especially those involving laboratory investigations, there were others where earlier information could have been given with regard to the final diagnosis. There are no grounds for criticism in this respect so far as local hospitals are concerned, but there is evidently need for closer co-operation on the part of some of the hospitals in other districts. Some improvement has followed an informal approach to the appropriate hospital authorities.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Table IV shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox

No confirmed or suspected case of small-pox was reported in the Borough in 1956, nor was there occasion to exercise surveillance over local residents because of possible contact with the disease elsewhere.

TABLE IV

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1956

	Cases notified in Age Periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	3	-	-	-	-	14	9	-
Whooping Cough	4	4	9	9	11	20	1	1	-	-	-	-	59	-	-
Measles	6	19	39	26	25	88	6	1	2	1	-	-	213	4	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	4	1	-	-	17	17	1
(a) Paralytic	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	2	-	1	-	9	8	-
(b) Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	-
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid B)	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	1	-	1	-	113	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	2	31	1	7	14	11	16	-	16	6	-
Food Poisoning	-	2	1	2	-	3	1	-	4	3	-	-	39	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	1	12	1	1	1	5	6	10	13	13	23
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	1	-	-	11	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	3	10	2	-
TOTALS ..	10	26	51	38	40	179	47	16	39	23	31	13	513	71	24
Totals 1955 ..	35	83	112	130	171	720	21	7	30	8	24	14	1355	57	21

Scarlet Fever

The rate of prevalence of scarlet fever was exceptionally low; in fact, the number of notified cases was the smallest in the Borough in the past thirty years. Within that period, however, there has been a remarkable change in the character of the disease, which is now generally so mild in type and of so short duration that many cases undoubtedly escape detection. It is probable, therefore, that the actual decline in prevalence is not nearly so marked as the fall in the number of notified cases would suggest. For that reason notification is necessarily incomplete and, as it does not extend to other infectious conditions caused by the organism of scarlet fever, its value in present circumstances is very limited.

The cases reported during the year were of the prevailing mild type and free from serious complications. In accordance with present day practice, home isolation was permitted and encouraged wherever the arrangements for the purpose were reasonably satisfactory; nine cases, including four from residential institutions, were recommended for admission to hospital.

Whooping Cough

There was a welcome and substantial reduction in the incidence of whooping cough to the lowest level observed in the past ten years. It might be unduly optimistic to conclude that this may be an early indication of the efficacy of protective inoculation against the disease, though it may not be without significance that the observed reduction in prevalence was most marked in the age groups covered by the County Council's scheme for whooping cough vaccination. Reported cases were widely scattered in distribution, both as regards the localities and the seasons of the year in which they occurred. Multiple cases in households of young children were relatively common.

In the course of their routine visiting of notified cases the Health Visitors ascertained that roughly one-half of the children affected had completed a course of immunisation against the disease. It was noted, however, that the illness in such cases was generally very mild in type and that many immunised children had escaped infection, though intimately exposed to it.

Measles

There was no undue prevalence of measles. of which a total of 213 cases were notified. Most of these were reported in the months of July and August, mainly from the Merstham district and amongst children under school age and those recently admitted to infants' schools.

Four cases were removed to hospital as they could not be satisfactorily isolated and cared for in their own homes. The remainder were visited by the Health Visitors, who reported that the facilities for home isolation in each case were reasonably satisfactory. No mortality was attributed to measles or its complications.

Poliomyelitis

There was a fairly sharp outbreak of poliomyelitis in the third quarter of the year, with a peak of maximum incidence in July. Although fairly widespread in geographical distribution, there was a small concentration of confirmed cases in the Redhill area where, in several instances, two or more members of the same household were affected. It was seldom possible otherwise to establish a direct connection between successive cases, though this is not surprising, as the infection is generally spread by unrecognised intermediate cases and by healthy carriers. The role of the former was amply demonstrated in the course of routine investigation of notified cases, where it was not uncommon to obtain a history of suspicious illness a few days or weeks previously in the same household.

An unusual feature of the outbreak was the very high proportion of cases with paralysis, in greater or less degree, at some stage of the illness. These, on the whole, were classified as mild or of moderate severity and recovered without serious residual disability; two exceptions were a man, who died from brain involvement after short illness, and a woman, who was severely paralysed and gave birth to a live child after fairly prolonged treatment in a mechanical respirator. In at least four of the paralytic cases the infecting virus was identified as belonging to Type I.

One case was successfully treated at home and the others were removed to hospitals with special facilities for treatment. Admission to hospital of all suspected cases of the disease also was encouraged during the season of prevalence of poliomyelitis, so that they might have the benefit of laboratory investigation and immediate treatment, should it be required. The provisional diagnosis of poliomyelitis was not confirmed in twelve suspected cases admitted to hospital during the year.

In addition to the immediate isolation of definite and suspected cases, other preventive measures included the instruction of close contacts in the precautions they should observe and, where necessary, restriction of their occupational or other activities that might involve undue risk to others. The medical practitioners in the neighbourhood were informed of the occurrence of the earliest cases and were advised to suspend artificial immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, and elective nose and throat operations, in view of the observed association between these procedures and the onset of poliomyelitis.

Meningococcal Infection

The one reported case of meningococcal meningitis was successfully treated in hospital. Appropriate precautionary measures were taken in relation to immediate contacts.

Enteric Fever

There was a small outbreak of para-typhoid fever in the early part of April. Two children who had been admitted to hospital - one provisionally diagnosed as a case of acute gastro-enteritis and the other as pneumonia - were later reported to be infected with S.Paratyphosus B. The medical practitioners in the district were made aware of the occurrence and were requested to report any suspected cases that might come to their notice. A further six cases were subsequently notified. All were admitted to hospital and recovered satisfactorily.

The infecting organism in every case was identified as belonging to the same group (Phage Type I. Var.I), which suggested that all eight patients had very probably been infected from a common source. In the course of enquiry it was ascertained that, with one exception, the persons affected had eaten cream-filled pastry made at a local bakery and sold at a shop in Redhill. The available evidence indicated fairly clearly that the infected material had been on sale about 23rd to 25th March. Exhaustive investigation at the bakery and at the shop concerned, including repeated laboratory examination of specimens from the staff and of the ingredients of the synthetic cream, did not disclose an existing source of infection. There was strong presumptive evidence that the para-typhoid organism had been introduced in a consignment of imported processed egg, all of which had been used in making the suspected pastry. The Ministry of Health was notified of the code number and other details of this particular consignment, so that its source and origin could be traced and further investigated.

It is somewhat remarkable that so few cases occurred, having regard to the quantity of infected material consumed and the number of persons consequently at risk. The fact that the outbreak was limited to the original cases who became infected between 23rd and 25th March, and that there were no subsequent cases, may be accepted as an indication of the value of the precautions taken, including the investigation and surveillance of immediate and home contacts. In the latter connection the assistance and co-operation of the medical practitioners in the district were especially valuable.

Dysentery

The number of cases of bacillary dysentery was very much greater than usual. All were of the Sonne type, which is usually very mild, and occurred mainly in two distinct outbreaks affecting public establishments where infection of this nature is very readily spread and is exceedingly difficult to eradicate.

The first outbreak was reported in March and involved 105 cases amongst patients at the Royal Earlswood Institution. The necessary investigations and control measures in this case were undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service, with satisfactory results.

The second outbreak started in October, when two children at the County Council's Day Nursery were found to be suffering from bacillary dysentery. Examination of the 32 other children and the 12 members of the staff of the Nursery disclosed that 25 of the former and 2 of the latter were excreting dysentery organisms, though not apparently suffering or convalescing from an attack of the disease. Routine enquiry at the homes of the children affected led to the discovery of 4 definite and, therefore, notifiable cases in other members of their families. All known cases and carriers were kept in quarantine until there was conclusive laboratory evidence of their freedom from infection. Arrangements were made for the routine examination of specimens from all new applicants for admission and from children returning to the Nursery after absence on account of gastro-intestinal ailments.

The two other cases reported during the year were not connected with either of the outbreaks mentioned and had, in all probability, been infected at a seaside holiday resort.

Food Poisoning

The sixteen notifications of food poisoning included eleven relating to members of two families who were affected almost simultaneously with moderately severe and persistent vomiting. Although the possibility of food poisoning in these cases could not be definitely excluded, there was no laboratory confirmation that the illness was caused by organisms of the food poisoning group. The remaining five cases were scattered in distribution and had no known connection with each other; the illness in these cases was of moderate severity and short duration.

Attempts to trace possible sources of infection were rendered largely ineffective by the delay in reporting suspected cases. In most instances the first reports were made to the Public Health Department a week or more after the occurrence of the illness; at that stage the affected persons had completely recovered and it was not possible to obtain reliable information with regard to food that had been eaten, or to collect unconsumed portions of suspected food for bacteriological examination.

Pneumonia

The rate of prevalence of pneumonia was very much below the average for the Borough, probably because of relative freedom from influenza, which is not infrequently complicated by pneumonia; only four of the notified cases were designated as influenzal in origin. Most of the cases occurred in the early part of the year, when persons in the advanced age groups were chiefly affected. Otherwise there was no epidemiological feature that was specially noteworthy.

Six cases were admitted to hospital and the remainder were successfully nursed in their own homes. The latter were visited by the Health Visitors, who reported that the home conditions were generally satisfactory and that nursing and domestic assistance, where necessary, had already been obtained.

It may be observed that the ratio of deaths to notified cases represents a very high rate of mortality. These figures, however, are not directly related, as the deaths ascribed to pneumonia include many due to non-notifiable forms of the disease; there were, in fact, very few deaths amongst the notified cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Thirteen women were reported to have rise of temperature during the lying-in period. Twelve had been confined in local hospitals and one, who had been confined at home, was subsequently admitted to hospital for treatment. Seven of the patients were Borough residents, the remainder being admitted to local hospitals from other districts. The total number of cases is not above the average.

Malaria

The one reported case of malaria was a member of H.M. Forces who became infected while serving abroad and had a recurrence of the disease on his return to this country. He was admitted to hospital for treatment.

Erysipelas

Though still included in the list of notifiable infectious diseases, erysipelas has ceased to have epidemiological importance in view of the highly efficacious agents now available for treatment. Of the ten cases reported during the year, two were removed to hospital and the remainder were treated in their own homes, in some instances with the assistance of a District Nurse; all recovered satisfactorily.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table V, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The national statistics for recent years have shown a gradual decline in the rate of prevalence of tuberculosis of the lungs. The same trend has been equally well marked in the Borough; the new cases reported in 1956 represent an incidence rate of 0.51 per 1,000 of the population, as against 0.53 in 1955, 0.69 in 1954, and an average rate of 0.78 in the preceding ten years. It is noteworthy that the fall in the prevalence of this form of the disease has been more pronounced in the younger age groups, probably as a result of the preventive measures adopted in relation to children and young adults who have been in close contact with known sources of infection. Further reduction may confidently be expected to follow the routine B.C.G. vaccination of thirteen-year-old school-children, which is now included in the County Council's immunisation scheme.

The case rate for non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis (0.04 per 1,000 population) is the same as that recorded in 1955, which was by far the lowest observed in the Borough since the disease became compulsorily notifiable in 1912. The fall in prevalence in this case also is no doubt influenced by the preventive action referred to above, and also by the various measures directed to the elimination of infection in milk, including extension of the practice of pasteurisation.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of 34 previously-known cases of tuberculosis (33 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory), who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. These included 13 new residents of the London County Council's Housing Estate at Merstham. The majority of these are under supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.

There were only two deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs, representing a mortality rate of 0.04 per 1,000 of the population, which is very much lower than any previously experienced in the Borough; the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.10. No mortality was attributed to tuberculosis of other organs.

At the end of the year there were 389 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 355 (194 males and 161 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 34 (16 males and 18 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number represents a reduction of 11 on the corresponding figure for 1955. Forty notified cases were reported to have made a complete recovery and their names were accordingly removed from the Register, together with 2 others who were found, after full investigation, to be non-tuberculous.

TABLE V

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1956, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	3	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	4	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
35-45 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	15	10	1	1	1	1	-	-
Totals 1955	18	8	1	1	3	1	2	-

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 127 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

Mass Radiography

There were no mass radiography surveys of the general public in 1956. Special sessions were arranged for the Redhill Industrial Group (i.e. factory workers and clerical staffs only) and for the Royal Earlswood Institution. Of 615 persons examined at the former, and 415 at the latter, a total of 3 were found to be suffering from active tuberculosis of the lungs and were referred for appropriate treatment.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	<u>0 - 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Over 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	385	25	24	25	459
Re-vaccination	-	10	41	138	189

It is estimated that 55.4 per cent. of the babies born in 1956 were successfully vaccinated against small-pox. This is the highest acceptance rate for several years and is a substantial and welcome improvement on the 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. acceptance of infant vaccination in the period immediately following the introduction of the National Health Service Act, under which compulsory powers in relation to small-pox vaccination were abolished.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person normally resides.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 10</u> <u>years</u>	<u>10 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
414	51	32	4	8	22	7	538

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 442 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

The total number of children immunised is much smaller than usual. This is mainly because immunisation was suspended from the end of July until the middle of October, because of undue prevalence of poliomyelitis in the district during that period.

It is estimated that at least 65.0 per cent. of the children in the Borough have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. Though not quite reaching the desirable optimum of 75.0 per cent., the existing level of immunity should offer an effective barrier against spread of infection should it, unfortunately, be introduced into the Borough.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for vaccination against whooping cough is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year, in whom the disease is most likely to be fatal or followed by serious complications. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
404	43	26	5	6	10	494

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 123 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation four or five years previously.

The numbers vaccinated against whooping cough in 1956 are, as in the case of diphtheria, much smaller than in the previous year, and for the same reason; nevertheless, roughly 60.0 per cent. of the babies born during the year were vaccinated against whooping cough. While not affording absolute protection against the disease, whooping cough vaccination with the antigens at present available confers a high degree of immunity in a large proportion of cases and greatly reduces the severity and duration of the illness in immunised children who are attacked.

Measles Prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. Only one request for serum was received during the year.

Vaccination against Tetanus

In August, the Minister of Health approved an extension of the County Council's immunisation arrangements to include vaccination against tetanus of children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. The tetanus vaccine may be given separately, but is usually combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, thus reducing the number of inoculations and affording simultaneous protection against all three diseases.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

For several years it has been the accepted practice to offer protective inoculation, by B.C.G. vaccine, to selected children from households in which there is an infectious case of tuberculosis. This work is undertaken mainly by the Chest Physicians, with occasional assistance from the Divisional Medical Staff.

The scheme was recently extended to include thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and Independent schools. Subject to the consent of their parents, the pupils in this age group are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G. vaccination. Thirteen schools in the Borough were dealt with during the year, with the following results:-

Number of children in age group	...	...	749
Number consenting to treatment	...	...	457
Percentage consenting to treatment	...	...	61.0%
Number Mantoux tested	...	...	426
Number of negative reactors	...	...	366
Percentage giving negative reaction	...	...	85.9%
Number vaccinated	...	...	363
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	...	...	99.1%
Number of vaccinated children re-tested	...	...	365
Number of these giving positive reaction	...	...	324
Percentage giving positive reaction	...	...	88.7%

The percentage acceptance of testing and vaccination and of negative reactors successfully vaccinated are very satisfactory and compare favourably with the corresponding findings in other districts.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

In the light of favourable reports of the efficacy of the Salk Vaccine in inducing a high degree of protection against paralytic poliomyelitis, the Ministry of Health announced in the early part of the year that a modified type of vaccine would be made available for the vaccination of children in selected age groups. It was decided that, for the time being, poliomyelitis vaccination should be undertaken only by Medical Officers of the Local Health Authority and should be restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954, inclusive, and who had been registered for the purpose with the Local Health Authority by 4th April, 1956. It was advised that the vaccine should not be given between the end of June and the end of November, when the prevalence of poliomyelitis might be expected to be highest, to avoid any suggestion that an attack of the disease had been provoked by vaccination, and because of an observed association between the occurrence of poliomyelitis and certain inoculation procedures.

The scheme was brought to the notice of parents of children in the selected age groups. A total of 1,960, or rather less than 30.0 per cent. of those eligible, had been formally registered by the appointed date, though many late registrations have since been received. Very small quantities of vaccine were delivered in May, June and December and were reserved for the treatment of selected sub-groups of the children registered; 214 children completed a course of treatment before the end of the year.

Protection against other Diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person resides.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from these various sources did not disclose any unusual or excessive prevalence or severity of non-notifiable infectious disease. The reported cases included 36 of german measles (mainly from the Merstham district), 30 of chicken-pox, 5 of mumps and 2 of acute gastro-enteritis; 8 of these cases were admitted to hospital for treatment or observation.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

The incidence of verminous infestation continues to be exceptionally low and is practically confined to a few school-children with nits or lice in their hair. A total of 25 pupils, or rather less than 0.4 per cent, of those examined, were found to be so affected when examined by the Health Visitors. None was so severely infested as to require compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose and very few were of such degree as to necessitate their exclusion from school until they had been satisfactorily cleansed. Cleansing, where necessary, was undertaken by the parents, with the advice and assistance of the Health Visitors.

Scabies

One adult and five children were reported to be suffering from scabies and were satisfactorily cleansed by the staff of the Health Department, at the request of the medical practitioners concerned. Arrangements were made for the treatment of 19 immediate contacts and for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing. The total number of cases is not greater than usual.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1956

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-third Annual Report, which relates to the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1956. The Inspectors assumed this title on the 2nd August of that year, when the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, came into operation.

The duties the Public Health Inspectors are required to carry out in this district are mainly those set out in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, with the exception of those relating to the supervision of scavenging. In addition, I am required, in co-operation with the Housing Manager, to advise the Housing Sub-Committee on the housing need of applicants for Council houses, and so assist them in the selection of tenants for vacant housing accommodation. The necessity for this co-operation between the two Departments is becoming more important now that it is possible: (a) to deal more effectively with our unfit houses, and (b) to consider improving the standard of accommodation in the older houses.

I am also required to report to the Town Planning Committee from time to time on the management of the Corporation's caravan site, which has now been occupied by 35 to 40 residential caravans for nearly four years. The provision of this site has met a definite need and has enabled the Council to exercise control over a matter which has been causing concern to the Town Planning Authority throughout the County for several years. The work involves the interviewing of applicants, the allocation of plots, dealing with the day-to-day problems which inevitably arise from such a project and, with the assistance of a resident caretaker, to ensure the general care and maintenance of the site.

The report is set out under headings which follow much the same lines as in previous years. With a complete staff throughout the year it was possible to maintain the normal day-to-day work of the Department, i.e. attending to complaints and enquiries, infectious disease investigations, sampling work, meat inspection, pest control, etc., and at the same time to concentrate on two branches of work that assumed importance following recent legislation, namely, slum clearance and food hygiene. Substantial and useful progress was being made in both fields and it was, therefore, unfortunate that it should be retarded by unexpected staff changes at the end of the year, which resulted in vacancies for two Inspectors; one of these posts has only recently been filled, and the other is still vacant.

It is a pleasure to record the diligence and enthusiasm of the staff during the year under review and, in conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his consideration and advice.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G. JANES

Chief Public Health Inspector

12th August, 1957

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 156 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and food poisoning. The purpose of such an enquiry is to try and ascertain the cause or origin of the illness, to trace contacts or contaminated or infected food and, if possible, to assist in preventing the occurrence of further cases.

The disinfection or disinfestation of material which may have become infected or infested as a result of infectious illness or vermin infestation is carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This may be done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in a compartment specially constructed for this purpose and which can be sealed and rendered air-tight. This work is also carried out on behalf of the neighbouring Rural District Councils of Dorking & Horley, and Godstone.

Detail of the work is given below and, unless otherwise indicated, relates to articles of bedding, clothing, furnishings, etc.:-

(1) Reigate Borough -

	<u>Dwelling-houses</u>	<u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Infectious & Other Diseases	141	50
Vermin (Bed Bugs)	3	-
Miscellaneous	130	87
Rooms Disinfected	25	-
Rooms Disinfested	15	-

(2) Dorking & Horley R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	76	-
-----------------------------	----	---

(3) Godstone R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	22	-
Vermin (Scabies)	92	-

(4) Other Institutions or Authorities -

Miscellaneous	-	453
---------------	---	-----

In addition, 55 library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries concerned.

The infestation of dwelling-houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, is now comparatively rare. In 1956 three houses were found to be slightly infested with bed-bugs, one room only being affected in each case; two houses were infested with fleas. All were successfully cleared by a single application of a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Requests for assistance in treating six premises, comprising a dwelling-house, a hotel, a nursing home, two boarding schools and a bakehouse, which were found to be infested in varying degrees by cockroaches and other beetles, were received from the occupiers; a liquid emulsion containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used in this type of case, and has proved an effective method of keeping these insects under control. Other premises which were disinfested included:-

- (a) Kitchens, etc., of St. Anne's Institution, Redhill (Surrey County Council), and premises occupied by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, which were periodically treated for cockroaches, under contract arrangements with those authorities;
- (b) school canteen kitchens under the control of the County Education Authority, which were sprayed with a liquid insecticide during the fly-breeding season to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933
Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954

Thirteen applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences under the above-mentioned Acts were granted.

No infringement of the Acts was noted during 1956.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 62 to 79
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952
Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The slaughtering of animals for food in this district is now concentrated at the slaughterhouse in High Street, Merstham, which has been licensed by the Local Authority until 31st July, 1959, and is carried out on behalf of the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Limited. The slaughterhouse has been well managed and maintained; the conditions imposed by the Town Planning Authority in 1954, when permission to make an extension was granted, have been observed by the Company, and there has been no cause for either nuisance or annoyance to interfere with residential amenities in that neighbourhood. Two other private slaughterhouses which are licensed annually were not used during the year.

In 1956, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued revised model bye-laws, which empower local authorities to secure that slaughterhouses are kept in a sanitary condition and are properly managed. The Minister states that he intends also to make Regulations under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for securing hygienic conditions and practices in slaughterhouses. He also presented to Parliament a White Paper outlining future policy to regulate the provision of slaughterhouses in England and Wales. It would seem that the action which has been taken locally in this matter since food control came to an end has been in line with the policy indicated. Although the new model bye-laws give wider powers than the existing bye-laws now in force, the Council agreed with the suggestion that, whilst the slaughterhouse at Merstham continues to be operated on the present satisfactory standard, the adoption of the new form of bye-laws does not appear to be immediately necessary.

Meat inspection continues to be carried out more efficiently under the better conditions which have existed since the slaughterhouse was reconstructed, but it is necessary to spend more time on this work. The Inspector on duty has now to make two routine visits per slaughtering day - one at about mid-day and the other in the late afternoon - to prevent interruption of slaughtering and dressing of carcasses and their subsequent storage in the chilling-room. The two Inspectors who normally carry out this work take turns of duty during alternate weeks.

The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Table on pages 31 and 32. The amount of disease found in 1956 continued on the reduced scale noted during the previous year. Three cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered, one carcass being submitted to treatment by refrigeration in the cold store adjoining the slaughterhouse.

The licence granted to the occupier of the knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, was endorsed to the effect that the premises may be used for the slaughter of horses. These premises have continued in regular use and are frequently inspected, thus ensuring a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and hygiene. Bye-laws for knackers' yards were adopted by the Council during 1955, and came into operation on 1st February, 1956. No infringement of the bye-laws was noted during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Bulls & Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	636	12	77	426	742	3,075
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	636	12	77	426	742	3,075
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	3	2	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	309	2	27	2	31	905
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	48.6	16.7	35.1	1.2	4.4	29.8
	♂ (10.8)	♂ (16.7)	♂ (0.9)		♂ (3.8)	≠ (5.1)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	-	12	-	-	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.0	.	15.6	-	-	.88
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

♂ Percentage excluding Distomatosis
 ≠ Percentage excluding Pneumonia and
 Congestion of Lungs.

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions											TOTAL			
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy and/or Emaciation (also Immaturity)	Congestion	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy and Peritonitis	Pneumonia		Cavernous Angioma	Miscellaneous	
BOVINES (excluding calves)	725	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Part Carcase		-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	26
Heads and Tongues		-	28	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	14	15	-	-	-	-	68
Lungs		-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	273	-	28	2	-	-	-	-	315
Livers and Part Livers		-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	14
Mesentery and Intestines		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CALVES -	426	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SHEEP -	742	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Part Carcases		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	13
Lungs		-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	19
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	19
PIGS -	3,075	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	4	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	15
Part Carcases		-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	15
Heads and Tongues		-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	27
Lungs		-	2	-	-	392	-	-	-	-	-	1	60	-	-	-	-	822
Livers		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	57	1	38	-	-	-	-	110
Mesentery and Intestines		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	4,968	2	103	5	3	403	6	1	1	286	81	53	133	367	1	15	1,460	

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 8 and 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of foodstuffs other than meat takes place during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when the condition of some particular commodity is thought to be doubtful. During 1956 the following foodstuffs were found, as a result of these inspections, to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for suitable disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works, where such food as cannot be used in the waste food plant and subsequently sold for animal feeding purposes is destroyed by incineration.

Bacon	81 lbs.
Cheese	48 lbs.
Sugar and Preserves	2 cwts.
Milk Powder	21 lbs.
Ham - canned	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwt.
Meat and Offal	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwts.
Meat - canned	11-cwts.
Paste (Meat and Fish)	3 jars
Fish	3-cwts. 1-qtr.
Chicken	1
Tinned Fruit Pulp	38 tins (3-cwts.)
" Fruit Juice	2 "
" Beans	21 "
" Carrots	15 "
" Fruit	398 "
" Fish	76 "
" Milk	118 "
" Peas	104 "
" Soup	10 "
" Tomatoes	180 "
" Tomato Concentrate	1 "
" Vegetables	12 "
Spaghetti	35 "
Tinned & packet food (miscellaneous)	103 tins and packets.

This work involved 73 visits by the Inspectors

Eight complaints were received from purchasers of food that its condition was such as to render it unfit for human consumption, either by reason of its quality or because it contained foreign material. Each case was thoroughly investigated, but, except in one instance, legal proceedings could not be recommended, either because contamination or unfitness at the time of sale could not be proved, or because the complainant was unwilling to give formal evidence in Court. These complaints related to three bottles of milk, two of which were alleged to contain glass particles and one to be contaminated by dust; three loaves of bread were each found to contain part of an insect; and a fruit cake manufactured in another district, in a new bakery equipped with modern machinery, was alleged to contain a nail. In all these cases interviews and correspondence showed that the contamination could only have been accidental, and did not reflect negligence on the part of those responsible. In the remaining case, the purchaser discovered a finger bandage in a jar of mustard pickle, and authority was given for legal proceedings to be instituted against the manufacturer, a well-known firm with factory premises in another district. These proceedings took place in 1957, and resulted in the firm being fined £25, and £6 costs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the Sale of Food, etc. to the Public
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

The law relating to the precautions to be taken to prevent the contamination of food was strengthened by the above-named new legislation, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. It was unique in that for the first time legal responsibility was placed on all persons engaged in the handling of food and drink for sale, i.e. employees as well as employers. The scope of the Regulations is such that it will

be a few years before the provisions can be brought fully into effect in all the many premises which are affected. Administration of the Regulations commenced in March, 1956, when the occupiers of 150 catering establishments, including licensed premises, canteens, clubs, schools, hotels and other institutions, were written to and the requirements of the Regulations briefly explained prior to visits of inspection. The following is an extract of a report which was made to the Public Health Committee at that time:-

"The Regulations have been the subject of considerable press publicity; they have been discussed at recent conferences and meetings by health officials and trade associations throughout the country. Locally we are receiving many enquiries from traders, and inspections and interviews are taking place almost daily on this subject. There is no doubt that local authorities are given considerably extended powers over the repealed Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, but in common with the officers of other local authorities we are finding difficulties, mainly of interpretation, in applying these Regulations. Some of the difficulties will not be resolved until certain decisions are made in the Courts. Border line cases crop up repeatedly, particularly in relation to small businesses where part of the domestic quarters is used in connection with food preparation, etc. Many caterers will not find it easy to comply with the Regulation which relates to the temperature at which certain foods are to be kept in order to reduce the incidence of food poisoning. Many traders will find that they will have to incur expense in providing new equipment, or replacing or repairing that which is obsolete or worn out; administration has therefore not been made easier by the fact that the application of the Regulations coincides with the re-assessment of premises for rate purposes. Experience already shows that it is impossible to apply a rigid standard of equipment without due regard to the particular circumstances of each type of premises and its personnel; it is essential that if we are to secure the co-operation of the trade, a common-sense and practical interpretation must be placed on some of the more ambiguous wording and phrases of the Regulations."

With the staff up to establishment it was possible to make good progress with the inspections that followed, and up to the end of the year 90 catering establishments were visited. The significance of the Regulations was discussed with the occupiers, who were at the same time informed of the alterations, if any, which would be required to premises or equipment. A certain amount of educational work is possible during these visits to emphasize improvements in methods which are essential for the prevention of food infections; this work was supplemented during the year by:

- (a) the assistance the Department was able to give to the local Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association, with the organisation of a short course of lectures for food handlers; this course ended with an oral examination and the award of a badge to the successful candidates; and,
- (b) attendance of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector at a meeting of the local branch of the Licensed Victuallers Association, to emphasize the importance of the Regulations and to discuss their administration locally; this was assisted by the showing of a film which had been produced solely for the trade by a well-known firm of brewers and admirably illustrated in a practical way many of the points raised in the new Regulations and the commercial value of adopting sound hygienic methods in licensed premises.

In November, 1956, the provisions of the Regulations were drawn to the attention of the occupiers of other food premises, including grocers, butchers, fruiterers and greengrocers, fishmongers and fish fryers, bakers and confectioners.

The occupiers of premises which it was possible during the year to inspect responded satisfactorily to the requests for improvements, and this is reflected in the table on page 41 which indicates the amount of work, structural and otherwise, which was carried out up to the end of the year.

Unfortunately the progress of this work has been impeded by the fact that two Inspectors have left the Council's employment and there has been difficulty and delay in filling the resulting vacancies. Experience has shown that it is relatively easy to secure material improvements of premises, such as the provision of additional sinks, washhand basins, constant hot water, etc., but it is only by frequent routine visits when one can talk personally to food handlers that one can achieve improvement of methods, which is the most important aspect of the question of the prevention of food infections. During 1956, with one exception, there were no serious infringements of the Act or of the food bye-laws; the exception related to the condition of wooden trays used by a firm of bakers for the delivery of bread and confectionery. The complaint in this case was received from the catering supervisor of one of the County Council Central School Kitchens. On investigation, it was found that five of these trays had been used for delivering bread rolls on the previous day and had obviously not been cleaned for a considerable time. It was established, however, that some white lining paper had been used in the bottoms of all the trays at the particular time of delivery, thus probably preventing actual contamination of the food. It transpired that the employee concerned had ignored instructions to use new wire trays, which had been provided to replace the wooden trays then regarded as obsolete. The employee admitted his neglect, and in the particular circumstances the case was met by his being given a formal warning.

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	99
Butchers, etc.	37
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	39
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	22
Confectioners (including 15 bakehouses)	102
Catering Establishments (including 70 Public Houses and 24 School canteen-kitchens)	170
Food Manufactories	8

One thousand and twenty-eight visits of inspection were made to the above-named food premises, twice the number made in the previous year. As indicated above, particular attention was given to catering establishments, and in this connection it will be noted that 43 premises of this type were inspected for the first time and added to the register.

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1956.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc.:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc.	31	32
Fish-fryers	13	23
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	2	15
Fruiterer (manufacture of jam and marmalade)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>47</u>	<u>71</u>

(b) Manufacture and storage of ice-cream:

Confectioner, etc.	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
--------------------	----------	----------

(c) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	75	107
Grocers, etc.	30	27
Fruiterers, etc.	5	4
Newsagents, etc.	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>114</u>	<u>141</u>

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 17 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

During the last few years a number of new food premises (shops, canteens, etc.) have been built in connection with new housing estates or factories. When the plans of such buildings are deposited for bye-law approval, the Borough Surveyor consults the Public Health Department with regard to advice or observations that might be offered to the architects or builders concerned on points relating to general sanitary or hygienic conditions before construction is commenced.

Some of the improvements made in food premises as a result of inspections are shown on page 41.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 89 to 99 - Sampling and Analysis (See page 37)

Ninety-three samples purchased by the sampling officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. They covered a wide range of commodities, and were almost without exception of satisfactory quality. In only two cases did the Analyst make an unfavourable comment; these concerned:-

(a) A sample of pork sausages which was found to contain sulphur dioxide as an added preservative, but within the prescribed limit; there was a technical offence in this case in that the presence of the preservative was not declared either on the package on sale or by a notice displayed in the shop. The vendor's attention was drawn to this offence, and the appropriate notice was afterwards displayed.

(b) A sample of a sweetmeat described on sale as rum fudge, taken informally, was stated by the Analyst to contain an imitation rum flavouring and not genuine rum. No further action was taken after the manufacturer had promised to correct the labelling of this product.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. The food traders concerned have been found to comply with these Orders in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The few minor infringements noted have related to the marking of imported apples and tomatoes, but verbal requests by the Inspectors for compliance with the Orders have secured correct marking.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

Distributors:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| (a) With 3 dairies in the Borough | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| (b) With dairies outside the Borough | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| (c) With premises in the Borough | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| (bottled milk sold in general shops) | | | | | |

Of the three dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled pasteurised milk. The third is in premises equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies have been made, and particular attention has been paid to the last mentioned dairy, where a considerable proportion of the milk consumed in the Borough is pasteurised; it is used daily to its fullest capacity. The milk sold from this dairy is augmented by pasteurised supplies from other processing plants operated by the firm in parts of London and the Home Counties. Frequent samples of the pasteurised milk were taken, both on the premises and on the round, and results are invariably satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk which were taken in 1956 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adulter- ated
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	6	5	2	8	21	21	-
Ice-cream	-	6	-	-	6	6	-
Ice-cream Mix	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Butter	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Margarine	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cream	1	-	2	-	3	3	-
Dripping & Suet	1	-	1	1	3	3	-
Sausages - Pork	4	2	2	2	10	10 [⌘]	-
Sausages - Beef	-	-	1	2	3	3	-
Liver Sausage	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Fishcakes	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Fish Pastes	1	1	-	1	3	3	-
Cheese Spread	-	1	1	-	2	2	-
Artificial Colour & Flavouring	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Flour, Pastry Mix	1	1	-	1	3	3	-
Dried Fruit	-	1	1	1	3	3	-
Confectionery - cake	-	1	1	-	2	2	-
Confectionery - sweets	1	-	-	1	2	2 [⌘]	-
Jelly	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Soups	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Vinegar	-	1	1	1	3	3	-
Sauces & Pickles	1	3	-	6	10	10	-
Stuffing	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Coffee Extract	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Marmalade	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Curry Powder	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Gelatine	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Yeast Tablets	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Energy Tablets	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Quinine Tablets	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Bronchial Mixture	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
TOTALS	23	26	19	25	93	93	-

⌘ One incorrectly labelled

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber in the Borough are now subject to bye-laws made in 1954 under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, towels, equipment and materials used therein. During 1956 no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted, but owing to pressure of other work it was only possible to make 8 inspections, involving 4 premises. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 18 men's and 26 women's establishments.

Factories Act, 1937

The Table on page 39 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 122 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 216 entries; in 21 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 26 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories drew attention to defects in 3 of the above cases which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

In accordance with Section 34 relating to means of escape in case of fire, one factory was examined for the first time and a certificate was issued; five factories were re-examined at the request of the occupiers, in consequence of alterations made to the premises since the original examination was made several years previously. Amended certificates were issued in these cases. The examinations are made in consultation with a Fire Prevention Officer of the Surrey Fire Brigade, who has often been able to suggest to the factory managements improvements in details relating to fire prevention, which is an aspect of the matter not covered by Section 34 and is not the primary responsibility of the District Council.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1956.

Housing Act, 1936

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954

Housing Subsidies Act, 1956

Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956

As previously reported, the survey of the district which was made in 1955 for the purpose of estimating the number of unfit houses which could be included in a five-year clearance programme revealed that 263 houses were suitable for such consideration. The Council decided early in 1956 to deal with 119 houses in the first two years of the programme and, by negotiation with the owner, to acquire what is known as the Dome estate, adjoining Warwick Road and North Street, Redhill, for rehousing purposes.

The programme had been commenced in the latter part of 1955, with the inspection of ten houses at Market Row and Feldwick Place, Redhill, which were later officially represented as unfit and included in a clearance area. In the early part of 1956, a further 62 houses were inspected and dealt with by similar procedure, and included in the Reigate Borough (Cromwell Road, South Street and Tower Street, Redhill) Clearance Area; 61 families (149 persons) were affected. Seven of these dwellings were used partly for retail business purposes; also included in the area were three retail shop premises with outbuildings, and a detached garage, which were classified as "other buildings" for the purposes of the official representation. Consideration of these matters, which involved questions of re-development and planning, rehousing, compulsory purchase,

Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories
on Register at end of 1956

								<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	..	..	..	..				2	-
Art Leather Works	..	..	..	..				1	-
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	..		15	-
Basket Work	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Book Binder	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers		..	..	..				5	-
Brick Makers, etc.	..	..	..	..				3	-
Builders and Contractors	..	..	..					6	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers		..	..					5	1
Cork Disc Manufacturer	..	..	..	..				1	-
Cycle Makers, Repairers and Vulcanisers	..							1	3
Dairy (Milk Processing)	..	..	..	..				1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners		..	..	..				-	3
Dry Cleaners	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Engineers Automobile	..	..	..	..				23	-
Engineers Electrical	..	..	..	..				2	1
Engineers Light	..	..	..	..	..	..		29	-
Food Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..		5	-
Foundry	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Fullers Earth Works	..	..	..	..				1	-
Gas Holder Stations	..	..	..	..				2	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing		..	..					1	-
Hardware Assembly	..	..	..	..				1	-
Hearthstone Works	..	..	..	..				1	-
Hide Tanning	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Jam and Essence Makers	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	1
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Laundries	..	..	..	..	..	..		4	-
Log Sawing	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Mattress Manufacturer	..	..	..	..				1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturers	..	..	..	..				2	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	..	..						-	2
Motor Body Repairs	..	..	..	..				6	-
Newspaper Fudging	..	..	..	..				3	-
Oil Refining	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Photographic Works	..	..	..	..				-	1
Pianoforte Repairers	..	..	..	..				-	1
Plumbers	..	..	..	..	..	..		4	1
Precast Concrete Manufacturers		..	..					1	-
Printers	..	..	..	..	..	..		9	-
Public Works Contractor	..	..	..	..				1	-
Rubber Trimming	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Rust Proofing	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Scale Repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Seed Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths		..	..	..				-	2
Shop Fitters	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly		..	..	..				-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturers		..	..	..				2	-
Suitcase Manufacturer		..	..	..				1	-
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	2
Thermometer Manufacturer		..	..	..				1	-
Timber Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Watchmakers	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	1
Wax Refining Works	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction				..				24	-
								<u>191</u>	<u>25</u>
								TOTALS	

etc., continued throughout the year, and necessitated the closest co-operation between the Committees, Departments and officers concerned.

The action which has been taken by the Council in dealing with the unfit houses in the district since 1945 has, up to the end of 1956, resulted in Demolition or Closing Orders having been made in 88 cases and 72 unfit houses being included in clearance areas.

The problem of the repair and maintenance of houses let at controlled rents has been referred to in many previous reports; no solution was in sight in 1956, and apart from items of urgent repairs, the amount of work which came under the supervision of the Department remained comparatively small. Only two applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year, certificates being granted in both cases; one of these was later revoked.

The publicity which has been given to the renewal of slum clearance has led to many enquiries being received, both from owners and prospective purchasers, as to whether the houses in which they are interested are likely to be the subject of action by the Local Authority. During 1956 these enquiries related to 27 properties. This work entails a considerable time spent in interviews, but it is hoped that the information and advice which it is possible to give has been helpful, if only to put prospective purchasers on their guard against buying property which later may be deemed to be unfit.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	..	..	69
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	3
House drainage	..	..	..	..	..	23
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	..	..	3
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies	..	..				1
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	..	..	11
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rats or Mice	..	..	..	..	..	204
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	14
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	17
Wasps nests	..	..	..	..	..	218
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	..	..	8
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	6
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	6
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	67

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1956	..	..	..	..	105
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	249
Complied with during year	..	...	..	..	259
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1956	..	..	..		94

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1956	..	..	..	..	-
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	1
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1956	..	..	..	..	-

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	15
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	12
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired	3
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	4
Horizontal damp-proof course inserted	1
• Other causes of dampness remedied	7
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only)	135
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	36
Blocked drains cleared	20
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	12
New W.Cs. installed	12
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	20
Cesspools abolished	1
Existing house drains connected to public sewer	1
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools installed	3
Dustbins renewed	4
Rooms cleansed or redecorated	14
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	18
Floors repaired or renewed	4
Window frames or sashcords repaired	14
Staircases repaired	2
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	11
Food stores provided	1
Sinks renewed or installed	2
Washhand basins renewed or installed	8
Washing coppers renewed or installed	1
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	3
Water supply pipes repaired or installed	2
Baths installed	8
Nuisances from animals or poultry abated	2
Yards cleansed	1
Other nuisances abated	15

Food Premises:

Sanitary accommodation improved	9
Drainage system improved	7
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	71
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	15
Windows repaired	2
Floors repaired or renewed	9
Rat-proofing carried out	1
Internal paintwork renewed	2
Coverings provided for foodstuffs	5
Washhand basins installed	32
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	14
Sinks renewed or installed	14
Constant hot water supply installed	43
Accumulations removed	8
Dustbins renewed	9
Other nuisances abated	54

Factories:

Roofs repaired	1
Floors repaired	1
New W.Cs. installed	1
Sanitary accommodation improved	9
Rooms cleansed	13
Drainage system improved	5
Other nuisances abated	3

Other Business Premises:

Redecorations and improvements	..	..	..	..	..	2
New W.Cs. installed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	..	2
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	3
W.Cs. cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	2
Washhand basins installed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Drainage system improved or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	5
Gullies renewed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Blocked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	7

Fairground Sanitation

The necessity for the supervision and control of sanitary conditions on land occupied for short periods by fairs, circuses, etc., has been explained in previous reports. Frequent visits of inspection are made on every occasion when land is so used; proprietors of these businesses are assisted by the emptying and cleansing service provided by the Borough Surveyor, for which a charge of 15/- a day is made. The institution of this service and the accompanying inspections has been proved by experience to be well worth while, and there is now a considerable improvement in these conditions.

Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

Inspections and tests made during the year revealed infringements of the Act relating to two electric fires offered for sale in a second-hand furniture shop. The action taken resulted in both fires being withdrawn from sale, one being broken up as it was not considered worth the cost of modification.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

		<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
		<u>Local</u> <u>Author-</u> <u>ity</u>	<u>H</u> <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agri</u> <u>cul-</u> <u>tural</u>	<u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u>	
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district	28	14,569	54	2,238	16,889
II.	No. of properties inspected during 1956 as a result of:-					
	(a) Notification	-	199	4	48	251
	(b) Survey	28	249	24	74	375
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for another purpose)	-	129	2	1,048	1,179
III.	Total inspections, including re-inspections	96	1,525	48	1,422	3,091
IV.	No. of properties inspected (under II) found to be infested by:-					
	(a) Rats	7	146	3	40	196
	(b) Mice	-	41	1	20	62
V.	No. of infested properties (under IV) treated by Local Authority	7	158	3	42	210
VI.	No. of "block control" schemes carried out	-	20	-	1	21

≠ Council houses are included under dwelling-houses

It was not found necessary to secure the treatment of infested properties by the service of statutory notices. Work undertaken by the Pests Officers met with the ready co-operation of all concerned.

The annual testing of the Borough's sewerage system for rats was commenced in 1945, and has continued regularly since then. Poison baiting at those manholes found on test to be visited by rats has been carried out twice a year - during May and November. Of approximately 1,600 manholes it is now only necessary to poison at about 30; the amount of bait consumed suggests that there are now only comparatively few rats living in the sewers, and that these regular "treatments" are effective.

Other important points where the Pests Officers can exert systematic control are at the Council's Refuse & Sewage Disposal Works, and along the banks of the stream which flows through the centre of Redhill and through the built-up portion of the Earlswood area. Regular and systematic poison baiting at both these points has been effective.

Rodent control work has also been carried out on railway properties at the request of the District Engineer of British Railways (Southern Region). There has also been useful co-operation with the Pests Officer of the Surrey Agricultural Executive Committee, who controls a staff of operatives available to assist farmers by routine inspections, etc., under contract terms.

The work mentioned above also does not include work carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary Homes, 30 schools and 9 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) one commercial firm, involving regular routine inspections of five premises owned by a local dairy.

The poison which is now most used in this work is "Warfarin", a synthetic chemical which acts as a blood anti-coagulant; rats feeding on this substance, mixed with a suitable bait, die from internal haemorrhage. It has the advantage over other poisons in that the material cannot be detected by rodents; the difficulty of poison prejudice does not, therefore, arise and baiting can be continuous. It is also relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals, but care must be exercised in its use, as accidents involving the loss of other animals through carelessness have been recorded in other districts. Other poisons in occasional use are zinc phosphide, arsenic, red squill and "antu"; also calcium cyanide in powder form, used for gassing burrows, etc. in the open.

In addition to the work of rodent control described above, the Pests Officers have been employed in dealing with other pests affecting Corporation properties and land, such as rabbits (which made a reappearance in the Reigate Heath district following their local extermination by myxomatosis a year or two ago), foxes, badgers, moles, wood pigeons, etc. Householders and others were assisted in the destruction of 218 wasps nests during the summer and autumn season. The recurring nuisance caused by pigeons nesting on buildings in the centre of Redhill, about which complaints were received from shopkeepers and others in the district, was relieved by routine trapping throughout the year.

